REMARKS

The independent claims are rejected in view of DYKSTERHOUSE. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

As indicated in the title of the invention, DYKSTERHOUSE is directed toward managing crypto policies "on certificate servers". All of the crypto polices of DYKSTERHOUSE are performed on the server based upon pre-configured settings, without communicating with the client machine (aside from the original communication from the client machine). This is readily apparent from the Summary of the Invention, which the Examiner cites. In all instances, the technical description refers to operations performed on the server, without communicating with the client. For example, at column 3, lines 54-56, it is explained, "The server accepts or rejects certificates based on configurable parameters enforced by the Certificate Policy Agent." Observe in Figure 3 that the policy agent is part of the certificate key server 381. Applicant cannot identify any teaching in which the server communicates with the client to make a decision regarding whether to accept or reject a certificate. Again, in DYKSTERHOUSE, all decisions are made on the server without communicating with the client.

The independent claims of the current application define a completely different architecture. For example, claim 1 includes the operation of "sending a second message from the server to the client, the second message containing a request for identity confirmation that includes the client public key". DYKSTERHOUSE does not show or suggest such an operation because nothing in the patent teaches or suggests that a message should be sent to the client to request identity confirmation. DYKSTERHOUSE makes its decisions without supplemental communication to the client and therefore does not show or suggest this claim limitation.

Claim 1 is further restricted by the operation of "if a third message is received from the client at the server containing an affirmative response to the request for identity confirmation, storing an association between a client email address and the client public key in a database, so that other clients can look up the client public key in the database." There is no teaching in DYKSTERHOUSE regarding the receipt of a message from a client containing an affirmative response to a request for identity confirmation. All operations in DYKSTERHOUSE are

performed on the server without communicating with the client. Thus, DYKSTERHOUSE fails to meet this claim limitation as well.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that DYKSTERHOUSE is an inappropriate basis for rejecting claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 should be in a condition for allowance. Since claims 2-9 are dependent upon claim 1; they too should be in a condition for allowance. Observe that many of these claims further recite characteristics regarding the communication between the server and the client. DYKSTERHOUSE does not show or suggest any analogous type of communication between the server and the client.

The remaining independent claim 10 and 19 include limitations of the type discussed in connection with claim 1. Therefore, these claims should also be in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, dependent claims 11-18 and 20-27 should also be in a condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, all pending claims should be in a condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. If there are any residual issues that can be resolved with a telephone call, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.
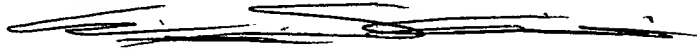
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